

Elmer Knowles



Elmer Stewart Knowles passed away on November 7, 2000 in Murray, Utah.

He was born on July 21, 1911 in Salt Lake City to Florence Meads and Henry Franklin Knowles. Elmer was a High Priest in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served in the United States Army during World War II in the South Pacific. He fought with the 7th Infantry Division at Leyte Island in the Philippines, Kwajalein and Okinawa, sustaining a battle injury that he carried the rest of his life. He remained close to his comrades throughout his life. Elmer was a nurseman and landscaper by profession and served for a time as president of the Utah State Nursery Association. Elmer put into practice the scripture, "I was in prison and ye visited me" by devoting the last 41 years serving the men and women in the Utah State Penitentiary. He served as volunteer chaplain and started the Green Thumb Horticulture program there. Elmer had a special rapport with the prisoners, and through his work, lives were changed and skills learned. He has received many civic and state honors for his work at the prison and as a nurseman. Elmer's family meant the world to him, and family reunions were a highlight every year.

Elmer was preceded in death by his brothers: Lerol, Eugene, and Rulon and his sister, Mildred Fridick, his wives, Hazel and Stella, and his son, Frank. He is survived by his daughter, Joleen Rischer, grandchildren Lisa (Don) Bickmore, Lori (Jim) Backus, and Mike Rischer, great-grandson, Jason Bickmore, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Elmer truly lived the scripture, "When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." He will be greatly missed.

Funeral services will be held Sat., Nov. 11, 2000, 12 noon at Murray 19th Ward, 67 West Clay Park Dr. (6400 So.). Friends may call Friday 6-8 p.m. at Jenkins-Soffe Mortuary, 4760 So. State St. and Saturday 11-1:45 a.m. at the church. Interment: Murray City Cemetery.